

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
27 December 1961

WH File
Prepared at
request of WH
Staff on 26 Dec
Delivered A
27 Dec
15

State Department review completed

OCI No. 3964/61

Copy No.

15

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Katangan Overtures to the Soviet Bloc
for Assistance

1. Katangan Interior Minister Godefroid Munongo, with at least the tacit approval of Tshombé, made a public overture on 20 July 1961 to the Soviet Bloc for assistance to Katanga and indicated that a Katangan delegation was about to go to Stanleyville for a reconciliation with Gizenga.

25X1

25X1

It apparently was a Katangan attempt to blackmail the West into supporting Katanga against the central Congo government and forestall UN military action against Katanga.

2. The consulate in Elisabethville reported its belief that Munongo was "not bluffing"; that it was a "solution of desperation...which he does not wish to apply but which he is prepared to carry out." The consul reported on 26 July he believed that "Tshombé is in agreement on this with Munongo."

25X1

25X1

3. Following a strong Soviet rebuff, the Katangan leaders dropped the idea, and there is no evidence of any Katangan contact with the Soviet

25X1

bloc or with Stanleyville. The Soviets in an Izvestia article 1 August called Munongo a "degenerate" and "out of his mind," and stated that the Soviet Union did not intend to have any dealings with the Katangan "clique of puppets." Munongo's appeal was described as a "stratagem for blackmailing the West and designed to undermine the unity of the Congo."